

November 29th, 2006

Pharmacy Software Vendors & CACDS Members,

As you know, the Prince Edward Island Department of Health is moving towards the implementation of a Drug Information System, connecting all Island pharmacies to a centralized patient drug profile.

As part of this endeavor, the Drug Information System (DIS) project team has researched the best possible solutions for securely transferring information collected for ADAP (All Drugs All People) to the DIS database. The province hired Allstream, an IT company based out of Ottawa, Ontario, to research and recommend a solution for this connection; Allstream are one of Canada's longest established coast-to-coast providers of communication solutions, and are a leading IT services firm for mid-sized and enterprise business, as well as the public sector.

There are 2 recommendations for Island Pharmacies made by Allstream and the province:

- (1) a Branch Office Tunnel where there is an established firewall in place, and
- (2) an IPSec device where there is no firewall.

IPSec VPN uses cryptographic tunneling protocols to provide the necessary confidentiality (preventing snooping), sender authentication (preventing identity spoofing), and message integrity (preventing message alteration) to achieve the privacy intended. IPSec VPN is essentially a firewall-to-firewall secure connection.

The required settings for the Branch Office Tunnel solution are outlined in the attached spreadsheet.

Support for the Branch Office Tunnel firewall connection or the IPSec device will be left to the discretion of the Pharmacy Owner and/or Pharmacy Software Vendor. By allowing the stores control over their own connections, it affords them the ability to use the connection for purposes other than the DIS, such as internet access. The same process will remain in place for contacting the government Helpdesk when an issue arises as there is today; when it is determined that there is an issue with the firewall or IPSec connection, the appropriate people will be contacted.

Attached you will find the requirements for an IPSec Branch Office Tunnel to connect to the Department's firewall. As well, there is a document concerning high speed internet access. Please share these documents with your colleagues and staff where you feel appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please contact me at the information below with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Patricia

Patricia Holland
Technical Analyst
Business Technology Consulting Ltd.
DIS Project - Department of Health

(902) 368-6194
pmholland@gov.pe.ca